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NEWS — HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us — Community Gardens

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

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Donna Wainwright volunteers to run the day-to-day needs at the Community Gardens. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

'Tis the season to get vegetable gardens going, and there are 21 plots next to the west side fire station on Lockeland Road. Would you like o

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have to wait a bit, as there are nine residents on the waiting list, and only about two of them get gardens each year.

Edward Drive resident Donna Wainwright volunteers to run the day-to-day needs at the Community Gardens, and spends time making sure the gardeners observe the rules.

She also encourages them to practice good garden management, which means everything from using organic fertilizer, and never using pesticides or weed-killers. “Think pollinator-friendly,” is the gardens’ motto.

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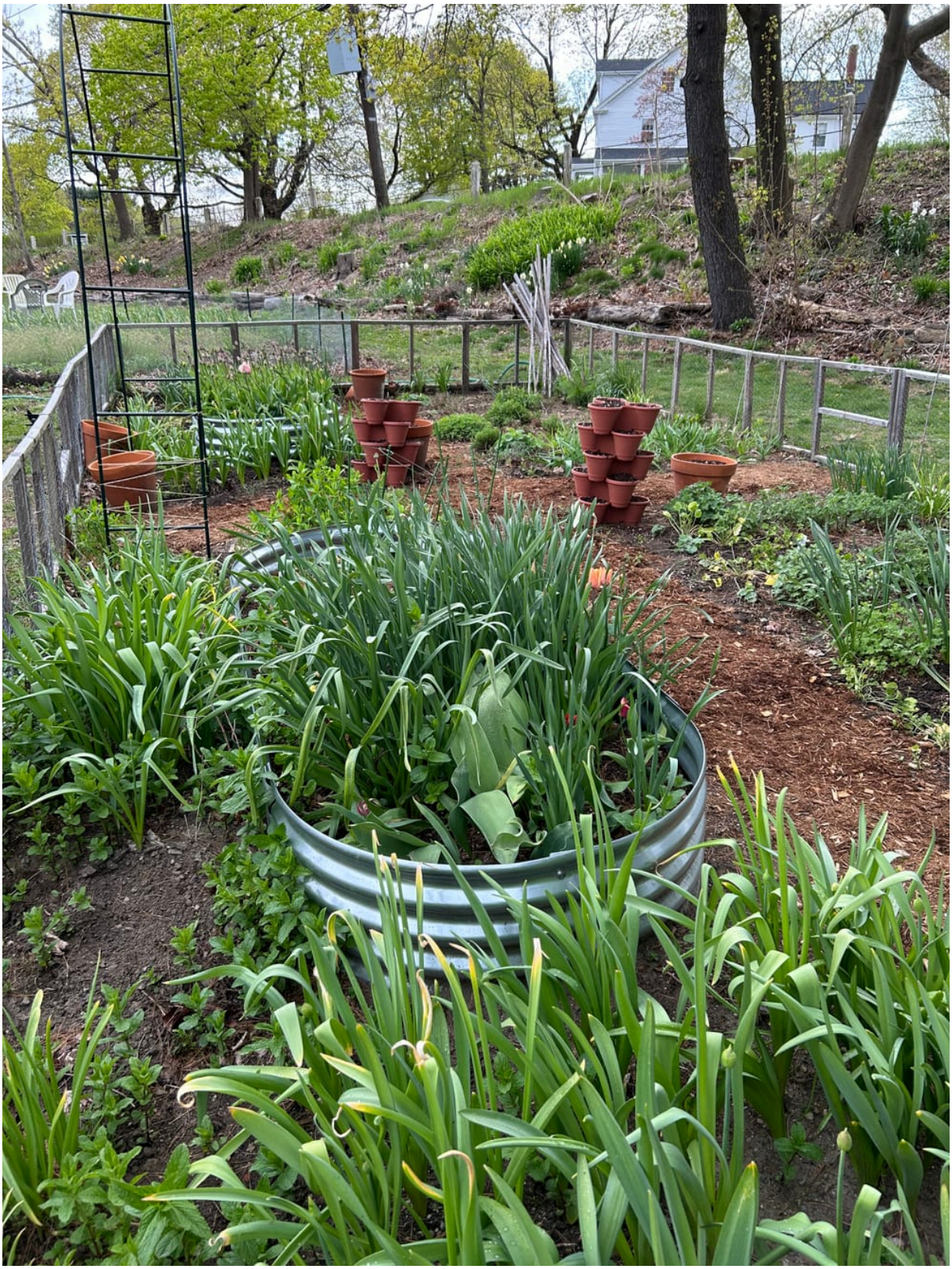

Springtime at the Community Gardens means planting time. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

The plots cost $35 a year and gardeners are expected to begin working on theirs by June 1. Gardeners are encouraged to put any stones the into an area around the lone tree.

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Wainwright gets some help from her partner, Alan Field, who mows the grass area (but not during “No Mow May”), sets up and repairs the hoses, and takes care of the compost bins.

One gardener who thoroughly enjoys her plot is Ridge Street resident Ruth Trimarchi. She says she does it because, “It’s fun, the produce couldn’t be fresher and it saves money!” She also loves the gardeners’ camaraderie.

Ruth Trimarchi's plot in the summer of 2023. COURTESY PHOTO/RUTH TRIMARCHI

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“For residents who do not have a yard, or do not have a yard that lends itself to gardening, the Community Garden is a welcome option. My own yard is very rocky and does not have enough sun to grow things I can easily grow at the Community Gardens,” she says. “One enjoyable aspe[illegible] seeing different agricultural techniques.

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Trimarchi notes some gardeners keep it simple and grow only tomatoes or dahlias, while others rotate a wide variety of traditional ethnic plants such as Chinese melons, Asian beans, Thai basil and other favorites. Some are fastidiously geometric in laying out their plots, and some “are quite haphazard gardeners and are perennially surprised when the harvest comes in!”

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Trimarchi's granddaughter Sage enjoys tomatoes. COURTESY PHOTO/RUTH TRIMARCHI

According to Recreation Department Clerk Michelle Blumsack, "Wainwright and Field are very passionate about the gardens. All [illegible] Department does is process applications. The Community Garde[illegible] wouldn't run without them."

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March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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NEWS

Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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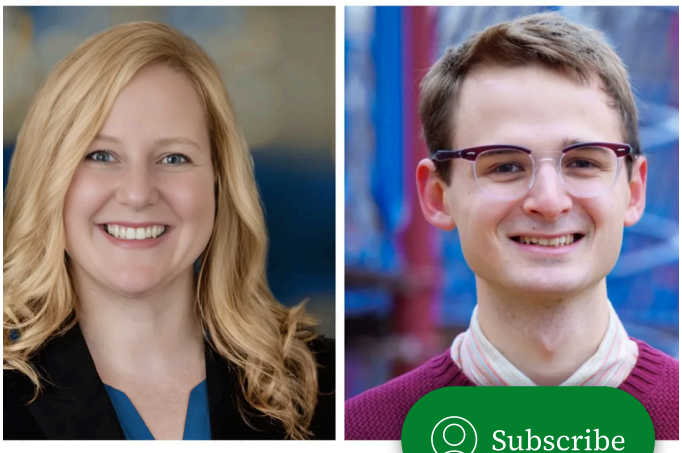

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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